



## OUTREACH AND INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING EFFORTS

### Summer Efforts

Reaching out to cave and karst program leaders at non-federal government agencies, U.S. academic institutes, and other non-governmental groups to explore how the Institute might work with those programs constituted one of the Institute's major activities in 2003. Individual discussions and correspondence took place with representatives of more than a score of colleges and universities, the Cave Research Foundation, the National Speleological Society, Edwards Aquifer Authority, Ozark Underground Laboratory, Environmental Systems Research Institute, Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories, the New Mexico State Lands Office, and others. Most of the interaction focused on potential collaborations.

In June, the Institute staff initiated a significant outreach campaign to the broad cave and karst community that involved a request for input from a diverse group of stakeholders, including federal, state, and local government agencies, non-government organizations, and academic programs. In July, the Director sent out a letter to about 100 representatives of diverse U.S. cave and karst programs (governmental, academic, and non-profit) requesting input and suggestions concerning future Institute operations and administration.



## Participants in NCKRI's Vision Building Workshop in October 2003:

### Vision Building Workshop

The Institute held a facilitator-run, two-day meeting with a group of cave/karst program representatives to discuss the Institute's operational and administrative vision. Susan Warner of LEAD Alliance provided professional facilitation for the meeting. Louise Hose, Dave Shaver, Ed Kassman, and Lindsay McClelland of the NPS Geologic Resources Division, Associate Director Mike Soukup (NPS Washington Office), Penny Boston (New Mexico Tech), and representatives from five other academic institutes, two state programs, five non-profit organizations, two national parks, and five other federal agencies (BLM, USFS, USGS, EPA, USFWS) participated.

**Penny Boston**  
*Geomicrobiology Professor*  
New Mexico Institute  
of Mining & Technology

**Chuck Barat**  
*Chief of Resources*  
Carlsbad Caverns  
National Park,  
National Park Service  
(NPS)

**Nick Crawford**  
*Geography Professor*  
Western Kentucky  
University

**Bob Currie**  
*Wildlife Biologist*  
US Fish and Wildlife  
Service

**Mark DePoy**  
*Chief of Resources*  
Mammoth Cave  
National Park, NPS

**Malcolm Field**  
Environmental  
Protection Agency

**Dave Foster**  
*Executive Director*  
American Cave  
Conservation  
Association

**Hal Hallett**  
*Recreational Planner*  
Bureau of Land  
Management

**Jack Hess**  
*Executive Director*  
Geological Society  
of America

**Horton Hobbs,**  
*Biology Professor*  
Wittenberg University

**Louise Hose**  
*Director*  
National Cave and Karst  
Research Institute, NPS

**Edward Kassman**  
*Policy Analyst*  
Geologic Resources  
Division, NPS

**Kathy Lavoie**  
*Dean*  
State University  
of New York

**Pat Leahy**  
*Associate Director*  
U.S. Geological Survey

**Jon Martin**  
*Hydrology Professor*  
University of Florida

**Lindsay McClelland**  
*Washington, D.C. Liaison*  
Geologic Resources  
Division, NPS

**Hazel Medville**  
*Federal Liaison*  
National Speleological  
Society

**Jim Miller**  
*Dispersed Recreation  
Program Manager,*  
U.S. Forest Service

**Randy Orndorff**  
*Associate Program  
Coordinator*  
U.S. Geological Survey

**Michael Queen**  
*Adjunct Geology  
Professor*  
Pomona College

**Scott Schulte**  
*Park Superintendent*  
Rock Bridge  
Memorial State Park,  
Missouri

**Dave Shaver**  
*Chief*  
Geologic Resources  
Division, NPS

**Mike Soukup**  
*Associate Director*  
Natural Resources  
NPS

**Rickard Toomey**  
*President*  
Cave Research  
Foundation

**Sue Warner**  
*Contracted Facilitator*  
Lead Alliance

**Carol Wicks**  
*President*  
Karst Waters Institute

**Carol Zokaite**  
*Educator*  
Virginia Karst  
Education Program



Warner wrote a summary of the contributions made by Vision Workshop participants. The material was mailed to workshop participants and the former Federal Working Group. Copies of the Executive Summary and supporting data are available by request sent to [nckri-mail@cemrc.org](mailto:nckri-mail@cemrc.org) and are posted on the NCKRI website at: <http://www2.nature.nps.gov/nckri/workshop.htm>.

One element of the Vision Building Workshop was the review and discussion of a number of organizational models. Models included government-government partnerships, government-university partnerships, government owned/contractor operated operations, science and technology centers, and the organizational structures of the Desert Research Institute and the Smithsonian Institution. No one model was accepted as the best; however, a list of pros and cons for each was developed and included in the summary.

## Organizational Planning

During the course of the year, the Institute Director discussed the creation of a 501.c.3 (non-profit, educational) organization and the potential benefits of it, including the ability to fundraise. This involved conversations with organizations including the Carlsbad Department of Development, the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, and the Institute for Regulatory Science.

Institute staff began working on a NCKRI Business Plan, striving to incorporate the views of the Vision Building Workshop participants. They met twice with Larry Coalson of the New Mexico State University's Small Business Development Center in Carlsbad on the structuring and writing of a business plan. Coalson also shared mid-1990s documents covering NCKRI strategic planning, proposed budgeting, and operating and staffing plans. Work on the plan will continue into 2004.

## NCKRI Web Site

The NCKRI web site, developed with the assistance of Jim Wood in the Geologic Resources Division, was used extensively during the past year as a communications tool to reach a broad audience of stakeholders and the general public. This effort included the posting of monthly reports on Institute progress, NCKRI building drawings, Vision Building Workshop related documents, partnerships, and a welcome by the director. The web site also provides Institute contact information.

## National Cave & Karst Research Institute Logo

The Institute solicited comments on what its logo should look like and what elements it should include. This input was compiled and sent to a graphic designer who produced several designs that were posted for comment on the nckri web site. After reviewing the comments a final design was chosen.

